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## Momentum, June 2005

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# NEWS FROM THE POPULATION COUNCIL

# Momentum

JUNE 2005

## Council board convenes in Mexico City, elects new leadership, meets with President Fox

The 119th meeting of the board of trustees was held January 9–12 in Mexico City, the Council's regional headquarters in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The first order of business was the appointment of Peter J. Donaldson as Council president; Jotham Musinguzi, director of the Population Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of Uganda, was elected a trustee (see related stories).

On Monday, January 10, LAC Regional Director Ana Langer outlined for the board the key challenges and trends in LAC and their implications for the Council's work.

"Poverty and inequality drive many problems in the region," she said. "Inequality in LAC is among the most extreme in the world, with the wealthiest 5 percent of the population holding 24 percent of national income across the region." Langer noted that disparities in health outcomes and access to services reflect the income gap, and that the semblance of regional economic growth and development obscures large pockets of deep poverty. She also cited the importance of such trends as urbanization, the growth of mega-cities, the rural/urban transition, and international labor migration. Langer's remarks were followed by LAC staff presentations.

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*Council trustees and staff members with President Vicente Fox of Mexico (front row, center). To the left of Fox is the late board chairman Rodney Wagner and Mexico's Minister of Health Julio Frenk; to the right, new Council president Peter Donaldson and LAC director Ana Langer. Photo: Gustavo Ben tez*

## Council veteran named president



Photo: Karen Tweedy-Holmes

Peter J. Donaldson, Ph.D., was appointed the eighth president of the Population Council at the January meeting of its board of trustees. Donaldson, age 60, became acting president when Linda Martin stepped down in July 2004. He had been serving as vice president and director of the International Programs Division, the Council's largest division, since May 2003.

"Peter has a passion for our mission and has spent his entire professional life advancing it," says John Bongaarts, vice president of the Council's Policy Research Division, who served on the search committee. "He has extensive knowledge about the issues and challenges we face, and recognizes the need to adapt to changes in our field. Peter is a proven leader, and he values the Council's integrity and legacy."

*continued on page 2*

## Remembering board chairman Rodney B. Wagner

Rodney B. Wagner, a member of the Population Council's board of trustees since 1996 and its chairman since 2001, died of a cerebral hemorrhage on March 24 in a Florida hospital, surrounded by his wife and children.

Council president Peter J. Donaldson, who had worked closely with Wagner, said: "Rod was exceptionally thoughtful and generous, and he cared deeply about the Council. He was a forceful advocate for improving reproductive health and rights in the United States and around the world. He was also deeply committed to improving the lives of poor families in developing countries. Rod demonstrated this commitment through his work with the Council and other nonprofit organizations, including the World Wildlife Fund, where he was a trustee for almost two decades. He also served on the boards of the American University of Beirut, the Friends of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, the Lewis T. Preston Education Fund for Girls, and Sesame Workshop."

Wagner joined J.P. Morgan & Co. in 1954 after receiving a B.A. degree from Yale University. For much of his career, he worked with clients in

developing countries. Wagner served for three years as general manager of Bank Almahshrek in Beirut, a Lebanese bank in which Morgan held a minority interest, before being named to head J.P. Morgan's Middle East and Africa unit in 1976. From 1979 to 1984, he also oversaw the firm's business in the East Asia and Pacific region. He became vice chairman of the Credit Policy Committee in 1984.

In 1962 Wagner joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C., first as deputy director and then as director of the Office of Capital Development and Finance in the Near East. In 1965 he served as deputy director of the USAID mission in Ankara, Turkey.

Wagner was named Morgan's vice chairman and director and became a member of the Corporate Office, the firm's senior policy and planning group, in 1993; he retired in 1996.

"Rod's death is a great loss to the Population Council and to our field," Donaldson says. "I will miss his positive spirit and guidance very much. The Council will feel his loss for years to come." ■

## Defective sperm in mice offer clues to infertility in men

Council research is shedding light on possible causes of—and suggesting possible treatments for—male infertility. The findings are also pinpointing potential targets for developing a reversible male contraceptive.

The discovery stemmed from research at Hermann Stellar's lab at Rockefeller University—home as well to the Council's Center for Biomedical Research—where scientist Holger Kissel developed mice lacking a specific gene for an unrelated study. Unexpectedly, he noticed that the male mice were infertile. To learn why, Kissel turned to Council cell and molecular biologist Gary Hunnicutt, who studies the mechanisms that enable

sperm to swim and fertilize eggs. This expertise made Hunnicutt especially qualified to investigate the mystery of the sterile mice, which produce the same number of sperm as normal mice, but cannot sire offspring.

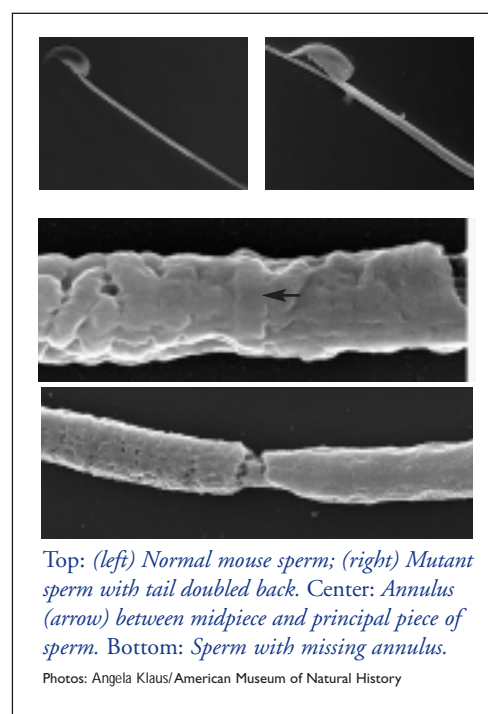
Hunnicutt found that the mice were sterile because their sperm had severely bent tails; had abnormally formed mitochondria—the energy-producing structures in a cell; and were unable to swim. The sperm also retained large droplets of organic material on their tails, resembling a

human condition associated with infertility known as “droplet sperm.” What was not known was why eliminating the specific gene in Kissel's experiment created so many abnormalities. The answer appeared to lie in the uniqueness of the spermatozoa.

“Sperm, unlike other cells, must change function as they encounter many different environments in both the male and female reproductive tracts,” explains Hunnicutt. “Other cells alter their function by making a new set of proteins, while sperm bring about change by rearranging existing proteins into new patterns of interaction.”

A ring-like structure on the sperm tail called the annulus is thought to be the gate that separates the tail into two distinct “protein compartments.” Proving this has been difficult because the composition of the annulus was unknown. However, Hunnicutt recognized that the sperm tails were bent where the annulus ought to be, and microscopic techniques revealed that the annulus was indeed missing.

“These mice have elevated the importance of the annulus because without it sperm tails cannot remain straight,” say Hunnicutt. “Plus, in comparison studies using sperm with or without an annulus, we can finally test whether indeed the annulus works as a protein gate.” Additionally, because sperm are so profoundly affected by this gene deletion, the proteins normally made by the gene are now potential targets for the development of novel reversible male contraceptives. Contraceptive approaches that seek to stop sperm production work by manipulating the male hormone, which can result in unwanted side effects, but tweaking a



Top: (left) Normal mouse sperm; (right) Mutant sperm with tail doubled back. Center: Annulus (arrow) between midpiece and principal piece of sperm. Bottom: Sperm with missing annulus.

Photos: Angela Klaus/American Museum of Natural History

specific sperm protein to disable it might inhibit fertility without negative side effects.

“What we are trying to identify is a functional ‘off switch’ on the sperm, which could be flipped off when contraception is desired and back on when it isn’t. Our current findings are taking us a step closer to identifying this switch and understanding how sperm become cells capable of fertilization.”

That knowledge, in turn, may further medicine's understanding of human male infertility, and potentially improve the fertility and quality of sperm in infertile men. ■

This research was partially funded by the National Institutes of Health.

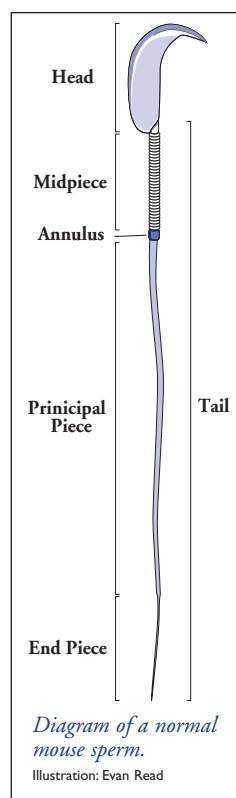


Diagram of a normal mouse sperm.  
Illustration: Evan Read

## Council publication focuses on an aging U.S. population

“Over the next 50 years the United States will undergo a profound transformation, becoming a mature nation in which one citizen in five is 65 or older,” writes Linda J. Waite. Waite is editor of *Aging, Health, and Public Policy: Demographic and Economic Perspectives*, a recent supplement to the Population Council's peer-reviewed journal *Population and Development Review* (PDR).

This dramatic rise in the number of older Americans (from one in eight today) will have a powerful impact on health care delivery systems, on major programs such as Social Security and Medicare, and on social institutions such as families that provide support for older people. Despite improving medical knowledge and reduced rates of disability, many of the elderly will live with chronic disease and infirmity. The Council pub-

lished the volume on aging to advance understanding of these changes and to provide a foundation for consideration of emerging issues. The supplement brings together important studies by distinguished social scientists who offer a variety of perspectives. The data analyzed come largely from such longitudinal surveys as the U.S. Health and Retirement Study.

Now in its 31st year, the quarterly PDR seeks to advance knowledge of the interrelationships between population and socioeconomic development. It also provides a forum for discussion of related issues of public policy. The journal draws on high-level social science expertise in economics, anthropology, sociology, and political science to offer ideas, analysis, and insights that combine readability and scholarship.

The Council's own research into aging by Policy Research Division vice president John Bongaarts, Research Associate Zachary Zimmer, and former Council president Linda Martin has been published in the division's Working Papers series and in such journals as the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Demography*, *Journal of Health and Aging*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and PDR itself. Much of this research is available at [www.popcouncil.org/socsci/agingRI.html](http://www.popcouncil.org/socsci/agingRI.html). ■

Financial support for *Aging, Health, and Public Policy* was provided by the National Institute on Aging's Office of Behavioral and Social Research and by 11 university-based centers on aging supported by NIA.



## Dissemination: Making results known

Dissemination of the Population Council's findings takes many forms: meetings with policymakers and program managers around the world; presentations and distribution of findings at major public health, social science, and biomedical conferences; media briefings and interviews; publication of books, working papers, and two internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals, *Population and Development Review* and *Studies in Family Planning*; and its Web site.

In addition to scientific and scholarly journals, Council research and experts are appearing more and more in the mass media. A few recent examples:

In a December 2004 *Chicago Tribune* series on child marriage that eventually ran in over a dozen papers, articles cited Council research and quoted Judith Bruce, director of the Gender, Family, and Development program, on the health consequences and human cost of child marriage.

Also in December, a dozen news outlets including the *Atlanta Constitution* and Yahoo's Health Day, carried Male Birth Control Moves Closer to Reality, featuring the Council's research with implants containing the

synthetic male hormone known as MENT<sup>®</sup>; another article on MENT appeared in the *Detroit News*.

In its February review of birth control options, *Consumer Reports* quoted an OB-GYN professor on the Mirena<sup>®</sup> intrauterine system: It's highly effective, completely reversible... CR went on to say, It lasts for five years, but a woman can have it removed at any time and she doesn't have to wait before trying to get pregnant.

Recent research by members of the Council's International Committee for Contraception Research and other scientists was cited in articles in May on emergency contraceptive (EC) pills such as Plan B, the current subject of heated debate. The researchers concluded that such pills appear to work by interfering with ovulation, preventing fertilization of the egg; they do not appear to disrupt the implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus. People mix up [EC] with abortion, and it is really inaccurate, R. Gene Sitruk-Ware, executive director of product research and development, explained to *Wired* magazine. *The Nation* cited new research by the Population Council in a



*Population Council educator Valquiria Barbosa explains materials developed for truckers to U.S. Ambassador to Brazil John J. Danilovich, who visited "Health on the Road" in January. An HIV-prevention project for truck drivers on the Brazilian border, the project combines service delivery and community outreach. It had provided services to some 1,800 truckers in the previous 15 months. (See Momentum, June 2004: <https://www.popcouncil.org/publications/momentum/default.htm>) Photo: Cristina Ogura*

pro-EC essay, and an editorial in the Eugene, Oregon, *Register-Guard* called the studies good news for pharmacists who fear that filling prescriptions for [EC] may be contributing to a possible abortion and noted, There is no downside. This is a drug that will significantly reduce the demand for abortions. ■

## Expert on gender, work, and family to head WANA region



Patrick O. Leary, 2005 Regents of the University of Minnesota. Reprinted with permission.

Egyptian-American Ragui Assaad is the Population Council's new regional director for programs and research in West Asia and North Africa (WANA). He will oversee activities in Egypt and other Arab countries as well as Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey. Assaad, age 46, succeeds Barbara Ibrahim, who stepped down earlier this year after nearly 14 years as regional director.

In 1983, the Council awarded Assaad a Middle East Research Award, helping to launch his career in the social sciences. Over the past 14 years, he has collaborated with Council staff in Cairo and New York on projects related to youth livelihoods, child labor, women's paid work, and the empowerment of adolescent girls. He currently is a professor at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. The holder of a B.Sc. in physics and an M.Sc. in mechanical engineering from Stanford University, Assaad also earned a Ph.D. in city and regional planning from Cornell University.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Assaad on board," said Anrudh Jain, acting vice president of the Population Council's International Programs Division. "His proven leadership capabilities, his vast research experience in Egypt and other countries in the region, and his commitment to improving capacities of regional researchers and policy analysts will be an asset to the Council and to all those who benefit from the Council's work."

Assaad will be based in the Cairo office, beginning in July 2005. He will direct a wide range of research and programs in eight countries. ■

## Council president *(continued from front cover)*

Donaldson earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Brown University and holds master's and bachelor's degrees from Fordham University. His first postdoctoral employment, in 1973, was as a Council staff associate in Bangkok, Thailand, where he evaluated program interventions and developed a management information system for the Ministry of Public Health. Two years later he relocated to Seoul, Korea, managing a Council grant program, conducting research, and writing policy briefs on population and development issues.

He returned to the United States in 1977 to become director of a research program on maternal and child health for Family Health International (FHI) in North Carolina. Subsequently, he established and directed a development and government relations program for FHI. In 1985, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences offered Donaldson the directorship of the Committee on Population in its Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. In that position he led an influential policy research program, wrote reports on population and health policy, and published a well-received book on U.S. international population policy. (He is the author, co-author, or editor of five other books and numerous scientific and popular articles on population, development, Asian affairs, and other issues.)

After four years in Washington, Donaldson rejoined the Council and returned to Bangkok, as regional director for South and East Asia, where he managed the region's six offices and developed strong collaborative relationships with Asian governments and civil society groups. Returning to Washington in 1994, he served as president of the Population Reference Bureau, America's oldest private sector population organization and a leader in communicating to policymakers, educators, and the public about U.S. and international population issues.

The Council's new president has spent the last few months meeting representatives of other population, health, and development organizations, federal agencies, and foundations supporting the Council. He has also begun an organization-wide strategic planning process, to delineate priorities in keeping with the Council's mission and to allocate resources over the next three to five years.

"The Population Council is an organization that has made a tremendous difference to the people of the developing world through our policy, social science, and biomedical research, and our institutional development programs," says Donaldson. "I will work hard to ensure that we continue to offer the highest-caliber evidence on how best to improve the lives of the most vulnerable among us." ■

## Mexico meeting *(continued from front cover)*

### LAC Staff Presentations

**Ricardo Vernon**, of the Frontiers in Reproductive Health program, described efforts to increase women's access to and knowledge of reliable contraceptive methods and technologies, including intrauterine devices and emergency contraception.

**Karla Berdichevsky**, of the Reproductive Health (RH) program, explained that in Mexico maternal mortality is considered an indicator of



*Women at an Oportunidades clinic class on infant health. To deliver at the clinic, mothers-to-be agree to attend classes and bring their children for vaccinations and check-ups.*



*A sewing class at the Oportunidades secondary school.*

inequality and that rates have not declined in ten years. Postpartum hemorrhage is the leading cause of maternal death among rural, less-educated, and indigenous women in Mexico; the Council is testing an anti-shock garment—developed in the United States to stabilize trauma victims—for efficacy and suitability in helping save lives among women from rural areas who may lack immediate access to transfusions and/or surgical treatment. The study is being conducted in low-resource primary care facilities and in rural hospitals.

**Sandra García**, director of the Council's RH Program for LAC, reported on the high rates of

unsafe abortion in the region, noting in fact that LAC has the world's highest annual incidence of unsafe abortion. Over the past decade, Council staff in Mexico have developed a strong portfolio of research documenting the public health burden of unsafe abortion. Congruent with these research activities, the Council is working to improve public knowledge of the circumstances under which women have a legal right to an abortion and to build awareness that access to safe, legal abortion services, as well as postabortion care, is critical to saving women's lives.

**Jennifer Catino**, of the Gender, Family, and Development program, reported that poor, rural, and indigenous women have far less say in their own lives than do their better-off peers. The Council is undertaking 14 interventions across the region to promote greater gender equity. The 2002 diagnostic study of the circumstances of Mayan adolescent girls in Guatemala\* has led to an intervention that gives older, literate girls in that country opportunities to serve as “change agents” while serving as full-time interns with Mayan nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

**Daniel Grossman**, of the RH program, described efforts of Council staff to curtail the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In Bolivia, they studied rapid point-of-care tests to overcome women's inadequate access to laboratory services; the tests enable health care providers to inform clients about their health status and provide treatment in a single visit. Plans are under way to scale up the program in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and USAID, which will



*Boys learning carpentry in the secondary school.*

purchase the rapid-strip tests. In the Dominican Republic, the Council is studying the use of female-controlled barrier methods to stem the spread of STIs among women who are unable to negotiate condom use, and in Brazil, Council staff are seeking to introduce STI home-testing, to allow women concerned about stigma to conduct these tests in privacy.

**Juan Díaz**, Council representative in Brazil, noted that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is growing among the poor and women. The disease is spreading most rapidly in Brazil's outer regions, as opposed to the urban areas, where the epidemic has stabilized. The Council is assessing the efficacy of a “health on the road” program, which serves truckers through a mobile clinic.

In conclusion, Langer said LAC staff plan to go beyond research to advocacy and to continue their focus on difficult issues such as HIV/AIDS, emergency contraception, and adolescents' health, as well as educating donors about the social and economic disparities in the region.

Trustee **Angel Gurriá**, Mexico's former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Secretary of the Treasury, commented, “Poor and underserved populations in Latin America are larger than those in many sub-Saharan countries. Countries such as Bolivia and Guatemala—where populations are very poor and mostly illiterate, but local institutions are strong—present opportunities to have a great impact.” Langer added, “Because institutions in the region conduct high-quality research, LAC is also well positioned to share best practices that can be applied in other regions of the developing world.” ■

\*See *Momentum*, May 2003: <https://www.popcouncil.org/publications/momentum/default.htm>

### Hallmarks of collaboration

Council partners Nadine Gassman, Director of IPAS Mexico; Bernardo Hernández, Director, Reproductive Health, Mexican National Institute of Public Health (INSP); Gustavo Nigenda, Center of Social and Economic Analysis in Health (CASESALUD), Mexican Foundation for Health (FUNSALUD); and Raffaella Schiavon Ermani, Adjunct Director General, Center for Gender Equity and Reproductive Health, Secretary of Health, participated in a panel discussion on the role of partnerships and alliances in designing and implementing programs to improve reproductive health in the region.

**Hernández described the Council's safe motherhood collaboration with INSP**, including a

study of the causes of maternal mortality in three Mexican states.

**Nigenda spoke about health-sector reform in light of sexual and reproductive health and rights.** He described how FUNSALUD and the Council organized and conducted courses on the issue in 2003 and 2004.

**Gassman discussed the National Alliance for the Right to Decide**, an initiative dedicated to positioning sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to safe abortion, on the public agenda. The Alliance, of which the Council is a founding member, disseminates research findings to inform the public debate.

Gassman also praised the high-quality, science-based research pro-

duced by the Population Council for helping to bring credibility to the movement for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**Schiavon outlined the range of collaborations the Council** and other regional NGOs have forged with the Mexican Ministry of Health to increase access to emergency contraception in Mexico. Studies conducted by the Council led to development of educational materials and strategies to broaden knowledge about this contraceptive option among health care providers. Emergency contraception was included in Mexico's officially sanctioned family planning methods in January 2004. ■



## Highlights of the board's itinerary

On Monday evening, January 10, Mexican President Vicente Fox hosted Council trustees, officers, and LAC staff at Los Pinos, his official residence. Minister of Health Julio Frenk joined the group and praised the Council's work and strong cooperative relationships in Mexico. The scientific evidence the Council provides, he said, has helped guide Mexican policymakers, often regarding controversial issues. President Fox thanked the Population Council for the contributions it has made to the people of Mexico and for sharing its high objectives.

On Tuesday, the Council group traveled to Tlazala de Isidro Fabela, a small town with a health center and secondary school supported by Oportunidades, the largest social program in Mexico. Serving five million rural and urban families, the program promotes health, nutrition, and education. The Oportunidades clinics provide antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care and reproductive health services. The Council's recent evaluation of the program confirmed decreases in maternal mortality rates in communities where it is active. In addition to traditional subjects, the secondary school focuses on vocational studies, including accounting, manufacturing, carpentry, industrial drawing, and secretarial skills.

On Wednesday evening, January 12, the group met at the Minister of Health's office, where Frenk emphasized that the Ministry is committed to reproductive health and gender equity. We use Population Council research to help keep policies up to date, he said, adding that evidence the Council provides on controversial issues is especially useful. Angel Gurr encouraged the Minister to continue to rely on the Council for its research and to find ways for the Council to be of greater assistance to the Ministry. The meeting was followed by a reception and dinner hosted by the Minister of Health in honor of the Council and attended by nearly 150 Council staff, colleagues, and guests. ■

## Ugandan joins board

Public health physician and obstetrician/gynecologist Jotham Musinguzi has become the Population Council's newest trustee and the first Ugandan to serve on the board. His election took place at the board's January meeting in Mexico City (see related story).

Musinguzi has particular expertise in reproductive health, population and development, and HIV/AIDS epidemiology—qualifications that parallel the Council's mission and current research. He is director of the Population Secretariat of Uganda's Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and serves on a number of international boards, including those of Uganda's National Planning Authority; the International Council on Management of Population Programs (ICOMP), based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the South-to-South Partners in Population and Development, based in Dhaka,

Bangladesh; and the African Population and Health Research Center in Nairobi, Kenya, which was established in 1995, originally as a program of the Population Council.

"Dr. Musinguzi enjoys an excellent reputation internationally as a leader in our field," says Council president Peter J. Donaldson, "and we believe his background, experience, and character will serve the Population Council very well. We look to Dr. Musinguzi to provide wisdom and good technical judgment in helping us decide which programs can best meet our mission of improving the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations."

Before serving in the Secretariat, Musinguzi lectured at Makerere University Medical School and consulted in OB-GYN at Mulago Hospital, both in Kampala, Uganda, and was president of the Uganda

# Momentum

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The Population Council is an international, non-profit, nongovernmental organization that seeks to improve the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world and to help achieve a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources. The Council conducts biomedical, public health, and social science research and helps build capacities in developing countries. Established in 1952, the Council is governed by an international board of trustees. Its New York headquarters supports a global network of 20 regional and country offices.

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Medical Association. He holds several advanced degrees, including a Master of Public Health from the State University of New York. ■

## Growing up global *(continued from back cover)*

Extended years of schooling are giving young people in the developing world, on average, greater opportunity to prepare to participate effectively in decisions about their futures. However, the positive effects of economic growth in Asia—home to 70 percent of the developing world's youth—skew global averages, and, even within regions, circumstances vary enormously. Roughly 325 million young people in developing countries live on less than one dollar per day. In the panel's judgment, "poverty is the greatest enemy of successful transitions."

The lives of today's young people differ profoundly from those of their parents, or even of the youth of a decade ago. Ongoing changes in technology, business, culture, politics, the environment, and education impact virtually everyone, but young people in particular. The passage from childhood to adulthood is itself a period of momentous social, psychological, and biological

transition. To come of age in a world in which global forces are reaching across national boundaries and into the smallest of rural communities is to be extraordinarily challenged.

"Their parents' past experience will provide little guidance to these children with respect to their future life prospects," Lloyd says. "In the panel's view, it is extremely unlikely that the consequences of failure to invest in educating young people in these early stages of the life cycle can ever be compensated for at any later stage. It's in everyone's interests to act now." ■

*Growing Up Global* was supported by a cooperative agreement between the National Academies and USAID, as well as grants from the Andrew W. Mellon, William and Flora Hewlett, David and Lucile Packard, and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur foundations, and the World Bank.

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## NEWS FROM THE POPULATION COUNCIL

June 2005

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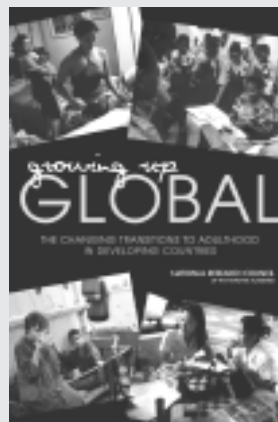
### Stay connected

We want to be sure all Population Council alumni have the opportunity to stay in touch through *Momentum*. Contact Rob O Sullivan, manager, Annual Fund and alumni relations, at 212-339-0511 or [rosullivan@popcouncil.org](mailto:rosullivan@popcouncil.org) to share your news or comments about Council projects.

## How to succeed at “growing up global”

“In ten years, the roughly 1.5 billion young people in developing countries who are currently making the transition to adulthood will be between 20 and 34 years old,” says Population Council director of social science research Cynthia B. Lloyd. “They will have become young parents, citizens, and workers. Their futures and the futures of the communities and the countries where they live—indeed, of our global society—rest on the choices today’s adolescents make, or others make on their behalf.”

Recognizing the need for better understanding of the changes taking place in transitions to adulthood in the developing world, the National Research Council asked Lloyd, a leading authority on schooling and transitions to adulthood, to chair a panel charged with evaluating these trends. The 15 experts who scrutinized and distilled existing research for over three years included two other Council social scientists, Barbara Mensch and Shireen Jejeebhoy. Of the many contributors to the panel’s work, ten were from the Council: Mensch wrote the chapter on marriage; other staff members analyzed data, drafted chapters, and wrote background papers, some of which will be included in a second volume of commissioned papers.



*Growing Up Global: The Changing Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries*, edited by Lloyd, was published in May 2005. The encyclopedic, 700-page volume offers findings and recommendations about schooling, health, work, citizenship, marriage, and parenthood. It provides a framework for the development of effective policies and programs to prepare young people for five key adult roles: worker, citizen and community participant, spouse, parent, and household manager.

The panel reports that young people in the developing world are, on average, more likely to attend school than did their counterparts 20 years ago, to postpone entering the labor force (lowering child labor rates), and to delay marriage and childbearing. Another important finding is that, in a vast majority of countries, girls ages 15 to 17 who stay in school are less likely to report having had sex and are

more likely to use contraception if they do than their out-of-school peers. Thus, the book reports, “policies that support universal primary schooling of adequate quality, that support the expansion of good secondary schooling, and that promote good health...are essential in their own right but also important because of their role in promoting success in...other domains.”

*continued on page 4*